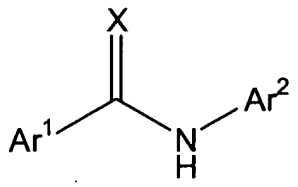
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended) A method for reducing anxiety in a subject in need thereof by increasing ion flow through KCNQ potassium channels in a cell, the method comprising the step of administering to the subject a pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a compound able to increase ion flow through KCNQ potassium channels, said composition administered to the subject in a potassium channel-opening amount, thereby reducing anxiety in the subject, wherein said compound has the formula:



wherein

Ar^1 is a member selected from the group consisting of phenyl, substituted phenyl, 2-indolyl, substituted 2-indolyl, benzofuranyl, substituted benzofuranyl, furanyl, substituted furanyl, thienyl, substituted thienyl, isothiazolyl, substituted isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl and substituted pyrazolyl;

Ar^2 is **a 5-6 membered aromatic ring containing 1-3 heteroatoms wherein said heteroatoms are each independently selected from the group consisting of N, O and S** ~~**aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl**~~; and

X is a member selected from the group consisting of O, S and N-R^1,

R^1 is a member selected from the group consisting of H, (C_1-C_8)alkyl, substituted (C_1-C_8)alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, aryl(C_1-C_4)alkyl, substituted aryl(C_1-C_4)alkyl, CN, $-C(O)R^2$, $-OR^3$, $-C(O)NR^3R^4$, and $-S(O)_2NR^3R^4$;

R^2 is a member selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_8)alkyl, substituted (C_1-C_8)alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, aryl(C_1-C_4)alkyl and substituted aryl(C_1-C_4)alkyl; and

R^3 and R^4 are each members independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_8)alkyl, substituted (C_1-C_8)alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, aryl(C_1-C_4)alkyl and substituted aryl(C_1-C_4)alkyl, or R^3 and R^4 can be combined with the nitrogen to which each is attached to form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring optionally having additional heteroatoms at the ring vertices.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the anxiety is caused by panic disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, or stress disorder.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the stress disorder is acute stress disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder.

48. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the subject is a human.

49. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the KCNQ channel is a heteromeric channel.

50. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the KCNQ channel is a homomeric channel.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the heteromeric KCNQ channel comprises a KCNQ2 polypeptide subunit.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the heteromeric KCNQ channel comprises a KCNQ3 polypeptide subunit.

53. (Original) The method of claim 52, wherein the KCNQ channel is KCNQ2/3.

54. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the potassium channel-opening amount is 0.1 mg/kg to 200 mg/kg.

55. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein the potassium channel-opening amount is 10 mg/kg to 100 mg/kg.

56. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the composition is administered orally.

57. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the composition is administered by injection.

58. - 59. (Canceled)

60. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein Ar^1 is substituted phenyl, substituted or unsubstituted 2-indolyl, or substituted or unsubstituted 2-thienyl.

61. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein X is O.

62. (Original) The method according to claim 60, wherein the Ar^1 substituents are selected from the group consisting of halogen, alkyl, halo(C_1-C_4)alkyl, (C_1-C_4)alkoxy, halo(C_1-C_4)alkoxy, nitro, cyano, -NHC(O)R^7, -NHR^7, phenyl and substituted phenyl, wherein

R^7 is a member selected from hydrogen, (C_1-C_8)alkyl, substituted (C_1-C_8)alkyl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heteroalkyl, substituted heteroalkyl, heterocyclyl, substituted heterocyclyl, aryl, substituted aryl, heteroaryl, substituted heteroaryl, aryl(C_1-C_4)alkyl and

substituted aryl(C_1-C_4)alkyl, or R^7 can be combined with the nitrogen to which it is attached to form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring optionally having additional heteroatoms at the ring vertices.

63. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 45, wherein **said heteroatoms of Ar^2 are selected from N** ~~**Ar^2 is selected from the group consisting of heteroaryl and substituted heteroaryl**~~.

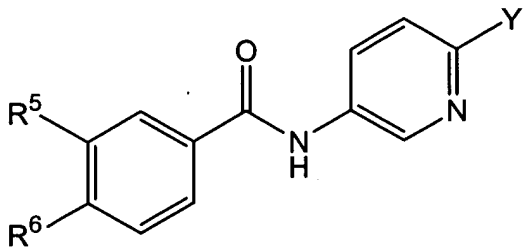
64. (Cancelled)

65. (Original) The method according to claim 62, wherein Ar^2 is pyridyl or substituted pyridyl.

66. (Original) The method according to claim 65, wherein Ar^2 is selected from the group consisting of 6-methyl-3-pyridyl and 2-chloro-5-pyridyl.

67. (Original) The method according to claim 65, wherein Ar^1 is substituted phenyl.

68. (Original) The method according to claim 67, said compound having the formula:



wherein,

Y is a member selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 substituted alkyl, -OCH_3 and -OCF_3, and R^5 and R^6 are members independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen,. alkyl, halo(C_1-C_4)alkyl, nitro, cyano and phenyl, with the proviso that both R^5 and R^6 are not H.

69. (Original) The method according to claim 68, wherein R^5 and R^6 are members independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, and Cl, with the proviso that both R^5 and R^6 are not H.

70. - 82.(Cancelled)

83. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 45, wherein said compound has the formula: